

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/648,021	O'HERN ET AL.	
	Examiner Thomas M. Lithgow	Art Unit 1724	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to Int Summary 19 Jan 2006.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6,9-11,13 and 17-33 renumbered 1-26.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

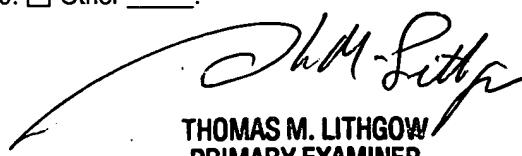
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
THOMAS M. LITHGOW  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

GROUP 17.00

Part of Paper No./Mail Date 01202006

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Hunter on 19 January 2006.

The amendment after Final dated by COM 05 January 2006 has been entered and the following Ex's Amd't is then entered.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 7,8 and 14-16 are canceled;

Claim 9, line 1, change "7" to -13--;

Claim 30, line 1, change "7" to -13--;

Claim 31, line 1, change "7" to -13--;

Claim 4, line 2, before "all components" insert –the media ring and the bonded end caps comprise a filter element--;

Claim 13, line 2 after "including" insert –a filter element comprising--;

Claim 13, lines 6-7, change "and further including...retaining ring" to -  
-wherein a groove is formed circumferentially around an inner wall  
surface of the aperture in the one end cap, and opens radially inward  
toward the central axis of the element, and the retaining ring is  
received in the groove, and the filter subassembly further including a  
central support core located within the internal cavity and retained  
therein by the retaining ring, the support core is closely and  
completely received within the internal cavity of the filter media ring,  
and is supported at either end by the end caps of the element, and  
wherein the retaining ring is located so as to engage and support an  
axial end of the support core—

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications  
from the examiner should be directed to Thomas M. Lithgow whose  
telephone number is 571-272-1162. The examiner can normally be  
reached on Mon. -Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the  
examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thomas M. Lithgow  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1724

TML